

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 09432 231759Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----090510 231800Z /75
O O 231748Z MAY 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8790
AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 09432

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR MPOL SOPH GW CG US
SUBJECT: OTRAG TEST LAUNCH

REFS: (A) STUTTGART 989; (B) STATE 121044;
(C) STUTTGART 900

1. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT A DIRECT EXPRESSION OF
US GOVERNMENT CONCERN TO GOMPERTZ OVER OTRAG LAUNCH
PLANS.

2. CONGEN STUTTGART'S CONTACT WITH GOMPERTZ HAS BEEN
MOST VALUABLE, AND WE HOPE THIS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION
CAN BE MAINTAINED. IT HAS PROVIDED A UNIQUE SOURCE OF
INFORMATION ABOUT OTRAG ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION, WE NOTE
THAT CONGEN OFFICER QUITE PROPERLY SUGGESTED TO
GOMPERTZ ON MAY 9 THAT THE DECEPTIVE TACTICS OTRAG WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 09432 231759Z

USING COULD LEAD TO ADDITIONAL ADVERSE PUBLICITY
(REF C, PARA 4).

3. TO GO BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, AND CONVEY TO GOMPERTZ
AN OFFICIAL USG POSITION STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT
ANOMALOUS. SINCE WE AGREE THAT OTRAG IS STRICTLY
A PRIVATE ACTIVITY, WE WONDER WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE

FOR THE US GOVERNMENT TO APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO INFLUENCE ITS ACTIVITIES ANY MORE THAN WE WOULD THOSE OF ANY OTHER FOREIGN CORPORATION.

4. IT DOES OF COURSE SEEM POSSIBLE, AS STUTTGART HAS SUGGESTED, THAT GOMPERTZ IS NOT ACTING STRICTLY ON HIS OWN AND THAT OTRAG IS IN FACT FISHING FOR SOME EXPRESSION OF USG VIEWS -- AND THAT THE COMPANY MIGHT TAKE SILENCE AS AN INDICATION OF USG ACQUIESCENCE IN PRESENT PLANS. IN ADDITION, THE FACT THAT MUCH PUBLICITY, SUCH AS THE SZULC ARTICLE IN "PENTHOUSE," ALLEGES CIA SPONSORSHIP OF OTRAG COULD GIVE A PEG ON WHICH TO HANG A USG INTERVENTION.

5. ON BALANCE, OUR VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR CONGEN OFFICER, WHEN HE SEES GOMPERTZ ON MAY 24, TO REITERATE THE CONCERNS HE HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED, PERHAPS MAKING INFORMALLY SOME OF THE POINTS MADE IN REF (B), BUT TO AVOID SPECIFYING THAT HE IS DOING SO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OR THAT THESE NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL USG VIEWS.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TEST FACILITIES, MISSILE RANGES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 23 may 1978

Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978BONN09432

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780216-1237

Format: TEL

From: BONN

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780531/aaaaazpg.tel

Line Count: 84

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: e1a20799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Reference: 78 STUTTGART 989, 78 STATE 121044, 78 STUTTGART 900

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 08 mar 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2609962

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: OTRAG TEST LAUNCH

TAGS: PEPR, MPOL, SOPN, GE, CG, US, OTRAG

To: STATE STUTTGART

Type: TE

vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1a20799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014